

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. POLICE BLOCK ACCESS TO EMBASSY BUCHAREST

EMBASSY BUCHAREST REPORTS THAT ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES APRIL 2
BEGAN BLOCKING ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY AND USIS LIBRARY BY
ROMANIAN CITIZENS, ALLOWING ONLY LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE
APPROVED BY MILITIA SECURITY GUARDS TO ENTER. AMBASSADOR
BARNES WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU OR
HIS DEPUTY TO OBTAIN AN EXPLANATION FOR ALMOST 24 HOURS,
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DESPITE HIS CONCERN THAT THE APPARENT BLOCKADE COULD DIS-
RUPT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TODAY ON
RESUMPTION OF AID TO ROMANIA. ON APRIL 3 MACOVESCU TOLD
THE AMBASSADOR:

--THE RESTRICTION OF ACCESS HAD BEEN A SECURITY PRE-
CAUTION TAKEN WHEN THE ROMANIANS LEARNED OF POSSIBLE

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE US, BELGIAN, TURKISH AND WEST GERMAN EMBASSIES.

--HE WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY NO WARNING OF THE PRECAUTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE EMBASSY.

--THE MATTER WOULD BE STRAIGHTENED OUT, AND HE HOPED WASHINGTON WOULD ATTACH NO SIGNIFICANCE TO THE INCIDENT BEYOND HIS EXPLANATION.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: IT TAKES A HERCULEAN STRETCHING OF THE IMAGINATION TO BELIEVE THAT MACOVESCU'S VERSION OF EVENTS IS ALL THERE IS TO THIS EPISODE, THOUGH IT MAY BE THAT IT ONLY ILLUSTRATES THE POWER AND INSENSITIVITY OF THE SECURITY APPARATUS. I RECOMMEND THE DEPARTMENT REINFORCE TO AMBASSADOR NICOLAE THE PROTEST WE HAVE MADE HERE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BUCHAREST 2431, 4/3.)

2. PHILIPPINES UNEASY OVER FUKUDA'S US VISIT

THE GUIDED FILIPINO PRESS HAS REACTED NERVOUSLY TO THE VISIT OF JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA TO WASHINGTON AND THE APPARENT EMERGENCE OF A MORE ACTIVIST JAPANESE POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. SEVERAL PAPERS STRIKE A STRIDENT TONE IN QUESTIONING WHETHER THE VISIT WAS AIMED AT CREATING A WASHINGTON-TOKYO AXIS IN WHICH JAPAN WOULD BECOME A US SURROGATE IN ASIA AND ACHIEVE THROUGH DIPLOMACY THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC DOMINANCE IT FAILED TO ACHIEVE MILITARILY IN WORLD WAR II.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO THE PERENNIAL PHILIPPINE UNEASINESS ABOUT JAPAN, THE CONTROLLED PRESS REFLECTS AN ANXIETY HERE THAT THE US MAY BE ENCOURAGING JAPAN TO PLAY A ROLE THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS DO NOT WANT IT TO PLAY. IT MAY ALSO BE FUELED BY THE FILIPINOS' EXTREME DISAPPOINTMENT AT JAPANESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARITA'S INSISTENCE DURING HIS VISIT HERE THIS WEEK THAT A NEW FILIPINO-JAPANESE TRADE TREATY CANNOT BE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS DURING HIS STATE VISIT TO JAPAN LATER THIS MONTH. (CONFIDENTIAL) MANILA 4796, 4/1.)

3. SOUTH AFRICA

A. FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA: HOW MUCH INFLUENCE?

EMBASSY CAPE TOWN EXPECTS SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, "PIK" BOTHA, TO BE AN ADVOCATE OF LIBERALIZING CHANGES HE BELIEVES ARE NECESSARY TO FORESTALL ADDITIONAL

PRESSURES FROM THE WEST AND BUOY INVESTOR CONFIDENCE. ON HIS RETURN FROM THE US, BOTHA TOLD NEWSMEN THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S DOMESTIC POLICIES WOULD NOT BE DICTATED BY INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES, BUT THAT ADJUSTMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO ASSURE THAT THEY WERE DEFENSIBLE IN THE WORLD FORUM. BOTHA APPEARS TO HAVE PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S

CONFIDENCE, BUT HE IS NONETHELESS A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT WITH NO POLITICAL POWER BASE. AS THE JUNIOR MINISTER, HE MAY BE IN THE CABINET MORE AS A PROFESSIONAL EXPERT THAN AS A LEADER OF OPINION. WHETHER HE WILL HAVE ANY PERSUASIVE LIBERALIZING EFFECT REMAINS AN OPEN QUESTION.

B. THE MOUSE THAT ROARS

TRANSKEI PRIME MINISTER CHIEF KAISER MATANZIMA HAS RENEWED AND AMPLIFIED HIS THREATS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA OVER THE
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ISSUE OF A BORDER PROVINCE MATANZIMA WANTS INCLUDED IN HIS COUNTRY. FOLLOWING THE SAG'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL PLANS TO ASSIGN THE ISOLATED ENCLAVE OF EAST GRIQUALAND TO NATAL PROVINCE RATHER THAN INCORPORATE IT IN THE TRANSKEI, MATANZIMA THREATENED TO:

--USE ARMED FORCE TO OBTAIN THE LAND;

--SEVER RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA; AND

--EXPEL HIS SOUTH AFRICAN ADVISORS AND SEEK TIES WITH "ANY OTHER STRONG COUNTRY," A REMARK WHICH OPPOSITION LEADER DIKO ENDORSED AND SPELLED OUT AS INDICATING THE SOVIET UNION.

CONSULATE GENERAL DURBAN COMMENT: MATANZIMA'S THREATS TO USE FORCE AND CUT OFF RELATIONS APPEAR TO BE MAINLY BLUSTER DESIGNED TO MOBILIZE DOMESTIC SUPPORT AND PROVE HE IS NOT AN SAG PUPPET. WE DO NOT TAKE TOO SERIOUSLY THE REMARKS ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
CAPE TOWN 490 AND DURBAN 181, 4/1.)

4. TURKEY: LOCKHEED SCANDAL FOR DEMIREL?

EMBASSY ANKARA REPORTS THAT A PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATING COMMISSION DOMINATED BY THE OPPOSITION VOTED APRIL 1 TO INVESTIGATE PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND DEFENSE MINISTER MELEN IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN THE PURCHASE OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT. THE COMMISSION CLAIMS THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL BRIBERY IN THE SALE OF A SECOND GROUP OF F-104'S TO THE TURKISH AIR FORCE, AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE

MILITARY OPEN PARALLEL INVESTIGATIONS OF SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS CONNECTED WITH IT. IN A FURTHER SLAP AT DEMIREL, ANOTHER COMMISSION ALSO RECOMMENDED THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, HIS TRADE MINISTER AND HIS FINANCE MINISTER ON CHARGES OF TAX FRAUD.
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THIS ACTION COMES ON THE HEELS OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MAJOR TURKISH PARTIES TO ADVANCE THE DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS FROM OCTOBER TO JUNE 1977. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT YET KNOW WHETHER THE MOVES, OBVIOUSLY IN PART POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, ARE THE PRELUDE TO SERIOUS INVESTIGATIONS.
(CONFIDENTIAL) ANKARA 2445, 4/2.)

5. PRC: HUA TO GIVE UP PREMIER TITLE?

CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG BELIEVES WEEKEND STORIES IN THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY LISTING HUA KUO-FENG WITH ONLY HIS PARTY CHAIRMAN TITLE MAY INDICATE THAT HUA WILL SOON STEP DOWN FROM HIS GOVERNMENT POST AS PREMIER. NORMALLY, HUA USES EITHER BOTH HIS STATE AND PARTY TITLES, OR ONLY THE TITLE OF PREMIER ON OCCASIONS SUCH AS THOSE REPORTED. THE CONSULATE GENERAL INTERPRETS THE LACUNA AS A SIGNAL TO THE CHINESE POPULACE THAT HUA INTENDS TO RELINQUISH THE STATE POST, BUT THAT AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MUST AWAIT CONVOCAION OF A PARTY PLENUM AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PARTY'S DECISION ON TENG HSIAO-PING. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) HONG KONG 3751, 4/4.)
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